

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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P 172114Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7404

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 9491

FOR USDOC/NOAA (IA AND DR. CRESSMAN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: DRAFT METEOROLOGICAL AGREEMENT FOR COLOVIA

REF: STATE 185906, STATE 212218

1. ON 16 SEP EMBOFFS MET WITH AUGUSTO QUINTERO, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SECTION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, TO DISCUSS COOPERATIVE METEOROLOGICAL AGREEMENT. QUINTERO STATED THAT GOC PROPOSAL OF APRIL 7, 1976, WAS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT AND DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENT. HE THEN STATE GOC WAS CURRENTLY UNABLE TO LIQUIDATE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS OF \$78,000.00 DUE FOR DELIVERED EXPENDIBLES FOR 1973, 1974, AND 1975. HE ADDED THAT GOC PLANNED TO SEEK FUNDS IN 1977 BUDGET.

2. INTER ALIA, QUINTERO ASKED IF U.S. INTENDED TO WITHDRAW EQUIPMENT IN BOGOTA AND SAN ANDRES WEATHER STATIONS. EMBOFFS DID NOT PREDICT U.S. INTENTIONS ON THIS MATTER BUT CLEARLY INDICATED THEIR AWARENESS THAT U.S. RETAINED FULL TITLE TO ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED AS STATED IN BILATERAL AGREEMENT. ALSO, QUINTERO INDICATED THAT SHOULD U.S. BE WILLING TO CONTINUE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, GOC WOULD EXPECT TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF ITS APRIL 1976 PROPOSAL. EMBOFFS IMPRESSION WAS THAT GOC IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT U.S. POSITION AS REFLECTED IN DRAFT AGREEMENT AND DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENT.

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3. IF GOC PROVIDES FUNDS IN 1977 BUDGET, EMBASSY

OPINION IS THAT ACTUAL PAYMENT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS INTO NEW YEAR. IN CONSIDERATION OF ABOVE AND NOTING THAT DISCUSSIONS HERE CONCERNING COOPERATIVE METEOROLOGICAL AGREEMENT HAVE NOW DRAGGED ON FOR OVER ONE YEAR, EMBASSY BELIEVES NOAA SHOULD REVIEW THOROUGHLY VALUE TO U.S. OF WEATHER FACILITIES IN BOGOTA AND ON SAN ANDRES. IF VALUE IS INSUFFICIENT TO WARRANT A CHANGE IN NOAA POSITION THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS CANNOT COMMENCE UNTIL PAYMENT OF FUNDS DUE IS MADE, EMBASSY BELIEVES DECISION TO DISCONTINUE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE MADE AND RELAYED TO GOC WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. SHOULD NOAA DECIDE TO CLOSE FACILITIES, EMBASSY REQUEST DECISION AS TO STATUS OF EQUIPMENT AT WEATHER STATIONS. DOES NOAA INTEND TO RETIRE EQUIPMENT?

5. QUINTERO TOLD EMBASSY THAT REPLY TO OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE TRANSMITTING QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE 185906 COULD BE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK. COPY OF FORMAL REPLY WILL BE FURNISHED UPON RECEIPT.
SANCHEZ

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